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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Hepatitis A outbreak linked to frozen berry product

Consumers are encouraged to discard product; be aware of potential for Hepatitis A

ANCHORAGE — Federal, state and local officials are investigating a multi-state outbreak of Hepatitis A illnesses potentially associated with Townsend Farms Organic Anti-Oxidant Blend, a frozen berry blend product containing pomegranate seeds. As of June 3, 2013, 34 people infected with Hepatitis A have been reported from five states: Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and California, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. No cases have been reported from Alaska.

The product was available at Alaska Costco stores. Costco is notifying its members who purchased this product since late February, 2013, and has removed the product from its shelves.

If you have purchased this Townsend Farms product from any store, do not eat it and discard any remaining product.

If you have consumed this product in the past two weeks, but do not have symptoms, there is no benefit to testing for infection. If you are unsure whether you have ever received a Hepatitis A vaccine, contact your health care provider to discuss the possibility of getting vaccinated to prevent illness.

Contact your health care provider immediately if you develop symptoms associated with Hepatitis A, such as yellow eyes or skin, abdominal pain, pale stools or dark urine.

Please see this website for more information regarding the outbreak.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm354698.htm>

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